



**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

# Wilderness Study Areas BLM's National Conservation Lands

## What is a Wilderness Study Area?

The Bureau of Land Management's National Conservation Lands comprise more than 27 million acres located primarily the West, these lands are recognized for their spectacular ecological, cultural, historic, recreational, and scientific value. These lands include about 12.7 million acres of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in approximately 530 units containing some of the wildest and most remote lands in America.

WSAs are areas that the BLM inventoried in a 1980 congressionally-directed study and found to have legally defined wilderness characteristics. These lands are generally roadless areas of at least 5,000 acres, largely undeveloped and natural, and provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Until Congress decides whether to release a WSA or designate it as Wilderness, WSAs are managed to protect their wilderness characteristics and suitability for Wilderness designation.



Adobe Town WSA, Wyoming



Handies Peak WSA, Colorado



Centennial Peak WSA, Idaho/Montana

## BLM WSA Facts

- BLM WSAs are open to a wide variety of non-motorized, primitive recreational activities, including horseback riding, rafting, fishing, hunting, backpacking, wildlife viewing, and camping.
- At 260,000 acres, Alaska's Central Arctic Management Area WSA is the largest WSA.
- The smallest WSAs are the 10-acre Hack Creek and South Piney Creek WSAs in Colorado.
- WSAs often have special qualities such as ecological, geological, educational, historical, scientific, and scenic values.

## By the Numbers

State	# of Units	Acreage
Alaska	1	260,000
Arizona	2	63,930
California	67	821,870
Colorado	54	548,209
Idaho	44	655,512
Montana	39	449,963
Nevada	62	2,542,505
New Mexico	58	960,335
Oregon	87	2,645,791
Utah	86	3,238,402
Washington	1	5,554
Wyoming	42	574,401
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>12,766,472</b>

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